Expert System: Potential applications in teaching and research in earth sciences

SAHIBIN ABDUL RAHIM

Laporan (Report)

Dr. Sahibin Abd Rahim (a lecturer in the Department of Earth Sciences, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Sabah) presented the above talk at 11.00 am on 10 February 1996 at the Geology Department, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Dr. Sahibin discussed all the benefits and potential applications of the Expert System in various field of earth sciences in front of about 30 participants. Dr. Sahibin also demonstrated on personal computer two examples of Expert System, one that he developed on land evaluation and the other on mineral identification which is still under construction. The talk and demonstration was followed by a lively discussion with several questions from the audience.

The following is an abstract of Dr. Sahibin's presentation.

Abstrak (Abstract)

Research and teaching in earth sciences demand a lot of time and hardwork from their experts. In research ample time is spent in a routine and non routine methods of solving problem exercises. In teaching, apart from giving lectures, the expert is also required to train student in practical. Although in this case a demonstrator can be employed but sometimes the proportion of student per demonstrator is still large thus reducing the chances of student being entertained by the so called expert.

Some problems in research and teaching may be solved by employing simple expert system. Expert systems are computer programs designed to solve problems which require high expertise. In other word the expertise of an expert can be captured and programmed into a computer so that it can be used and referred by the student any time. In research this expert system can be employed to do the routine job thus relieving the experts from most of the working routine to achieve the required result.

It is thought that expert system has a lot to offer in the field of earth sciences and it is time that the teaching of this subject is considered?

Mohd Shafeea Leman